

Are You Giving Pests Control Over Your Crawl Space?

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Many homeowners are unaware when their home is becoming a playground for insects and other pests. You may be thinking that your home is completely pest free because you maintain a clean environment and you don't have an over abundance of insects, mice, or other critters. There could be a part of your home that is not as pristine as you think. It's not your fault, but you can have the problem fixed!

Remove the ambiguity about whether your home has pests and take a look at your crawl space.

The Crawl Space is the Pathway to Your Home

It can be dark, humid, and moist, which could turn into a recipe for disaster!

Remember, your crawl space is located directly beneath your home, separating it from the earth's surface. However, because of this locale, it can become the way that unwanted critters and unhealthy air can enter the rest of your home.

What's Wrong with Darkness?

Since we don't spend all that much time in our home's crawl space, we may not always consider the effects it can have on the rest of our home's environment. For example, because the space is not lit as the rest of our home, it remains dark, which is the ideal hiding place for some insects. Not only is it dark, but it's humid.

The Humidity

When the outside air is hot and humid you can expect some of that humidity to enter. Actually, as the air enters the space, it will be cooled, and for every one degree the air is cooled, the humidity rises by 2.2 percent. Humidity quickly creates the breeding ground for mold.

Not much has to be present for mold to develop. Mold will grow if there is moisture, organic material, and a comfortable temperature between 70 and 90 degrees. You can be sure to find these three conditions in your crawl space, which is why it's important to waterproof, repair, and dehumidify.

Effects of Moisture

Ever notice how mosquitoes are attracted to wetlands? That's because mosquitoes and many other insects enjoy humid and wet places. Once humidity and moisture enters, you will surely find mold buildup and insects.

Small rodents and other critters can even enter into this space if there are any cracks or openings.

Moisture also influences mold growth. Once mold grows, you may notice a musty smell.

The Air Spreads

Don't think this musty smell, and the critters and insects will be secluded to your crawl space environment - they won't!

It has been proven that about half of the air you breathe on the first floor of your home is actually coming from beneath your home in the basement or crawl space. In other words, this air will become the air that's in the rest of your home.

To have the safest home with the purest air, be sure to contact an repair expert to inspect your crawl space and perform any necessary repairs.

An expert can repair the cracks and openings, install a vapor barrier to separate the crawl space from the earth to help prevent moisture damage, and install a dehumidifier to keep the environment moisture-free and pure.

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